

Winning a state championship is not only a reflection of the results of a race but also the character of its competitors. Every member of this team can walk with her head held high knowing that she has achieved what very few could. I join the entire community of Hamilton in congratulating these young women and their coach on their achievements and look forward to more success to come.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you join with me in commending the Penney High School girls' cross country team on their sixth straight state championship.

**TEMPORARY FORBEARANCE FOR  
FAMILIES AFFECTED BY CON-  
TAMINATED DRYWALL**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 2, 2009*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 197, "Encouraging banks and mortgage servicers to work with families affected by contaminated drywall to allow temporary forbearance without penalty on payments on their home mortgages". I would like to thank my colleague, Rep. GLENN NYE, for introducing this act of solidarity, as well as the co-sponsors.

Contaminated drywall affects thousands of Americans—since January 2009, over 1,300 cases of this structural condition have been reported from 26 States and the District of Columbia. When in 2006, more than 495 million pounds of drywall was imported into the United States from China, my home city of Houston was one of the major recipients.

Earlier this year, America's Watchdog, a national advocacy group for consumer protection, confirmed defective drywall in homes in Michigan, Virginia, Georgia, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Maryland, North and South Carolina, New York and New Jersey, with an estimated 10,000 homes in Florida and more than 100,000 nationwide affected. At least a dozen companies manufactured defective drywall in China and about 100 builders in Florida used the product, dating back to 2004.

Noxious gases released from contaminated drywall can cause serious health effects involving the upper respiratory tract, such as bloody noses, rashes, sore throats, and burning eyes; and toxins released from contaminated drywall can corrode metals inside the home, such as air conditioning coils and electrical wiring.

The dangers and health risks posed by contaminated drywall have forced thousands of families out of their homes and into temporary living situations, and many such families are unable to afford an additional financial burden. Because of this, some Americans who pay their mortgages on time are now suffering from both financial problems and health complications through no fault of their own.

Banks and mortgage servicers can help families affected by this scourge by providing temporary forbearance with respect to their

mortgage payments to help such families afford the costs of an additional residence while they are removed from their primary homes. That is why I join this body in encouraging banks and mortgage servicers to work with families affected by contaminated drywall to allow temporary forbearance without penalty on payments on their home mortgages.

IN TRIBUTE TO ROBERT O. HUBER

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Robert O. "Bob" Huber, who was recently awarded the Ben E. Nordman 2009 Public Services Award by the Ventura County Bar Association in recognition of his many years of community service.

This award recognizes outstanding community contributions by a Ventura County, California, attorney through charitable and public services activities. One would be hard-pressed to find someone more deserving of the award than Bob.

I have known, and been friends with, Bob for more than 30 years. We served together on the Simi Valley City Council in the early 1980s and he was one of my first and most fervent supporters when I decided to run for Congress.

Bob became an attorney after 13 years as a mortician. He runs his own law office in partnership with Russ Takasugi and has served as a Judge Pro Tem since 1981. In 2004, he returned to elective office as a Ventura County Community College District trustee. He currently serves as board president.

As examples of his leadership, Bob initiated the first Affordable Housing Committee in the state of California while serving on the Simi Valley City Council. As a College District trustee, he prompted the board to launch an emergency response system to protect students at the district's three campuses after the Virginia Tech massacre. The district was the first college or university system in California to launch an emergency program and earned the district a special commendation from the State Chancellor's office.

Throughout the years, Bob has also served on a number of governmental boards and commissions. He also became active in the private sector starting at an early age. For instance, he was 27 years old the first time he served as president of the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he has also headed his Rotary Club, the Simi Valley Boy Scout District, the Southeast Ventura County YMCA and the Administrative board of the United Methodist Church of Simi Valley. He was a founding steering committee board member for Leadership Simi Valley, the Simi Valley Education Foundation and the Simi Valley Community Foundation.

He has also provided pro bono legal work for the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce, the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church, the Rotary Club, the Boys & Girls Club, the Free Clinic of Simi Valley, the Simi Valley Community Foundation and the Simi Valley Cultural Arts Foundation.

There is more but, in short, Bob Huber is very deserving of this honor.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Robert O. "Bob" Huber for earning the Ben E. Nordman 2009 Public Services Award and in thanking him for his many decades of service to his community.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE L.  
CATRAMBONE

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor George L. Catrambone and his decades of service to the children of the Long Branch Public Schools. Mr. Catrambone is known as an innovator in the field of education and he has tirelessly worked to improve the quality of instruction for thousands of students. He recently announced his retirement after over 37 years of dedicated service.

Mr. Catrambone began his career at the Elberon Elementary School where he first worked as a teacher for the handicapped. He became the school's senior special education teacher before rising to the position of Coordinator of Special Education for the entire Long Branch School District. Mr. Catrambone rose to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Schools in 2002. In this position, Mr. Catrambone was a key force behind the implementation of the education policies of New Jersey's Governor and Commissioner of Education.

Mr. Catrambone has played a vital role in the implementation of the Whole School Reform initiative. He has helped to implement the initiative's curriculum advancements, including the provision of a full school day for preschool age children. He was also instrumental in the design and construction of new schools, athletic facilities, and playgrounds for use by the children of the Long Branch Public Schools.

As a member of several professional organizations, Mr. Catrambone has contributed a great deal to New Jersey's community of educators. The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the Association for Children with Learning Disabilities, the New Jersey Education Association, and the Principal and Supervisors Association are included among the many different organizations of which Mr. Catrambone is a valued member.

Mr. Catrambone has been the recipient of several honors during his distinguished career. He has been awarded the Rotary Club of Long Branch's prestigious Paul Harris Fellow Award and he has been presented with the Long Branch Board of Education's Achievement resolution for his work with handicapped youth. Mr. Catrambone has also been honored for the work he has done on behalf of the Special Olympics.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating Mr. Catrambone's remarkable career. His impressive record of resilient achievement serves as a model for educators across the State of New Jersey.

HONORING THE PENNEY HIGH  
SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Penney High School Hornets football team in defeating Valle Catholic, by a score of 21–17, to claim victory in this year's Class 1 Show-Me Bowl at the Edward Jones Dome.

A championship is not only reflective of the final game of the year but also the hard work and dedication required in getting to that point through diligence and discipline. Knocking off one of Missouri's historically great football programs and owner of 9 previous state titles is no small achievement and the Hornets should be commended for their efforts in doing so.

Additionally, I want to recognize the outstanding leadership of Coach Dave Fairchild, who earned his first state title in his 26 years of coaching. Through his vision and guidance, the Hornets were able to repeatedly deliver solid results and achieve the honor of state champions.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully request you to join me in congratulating the achievement of the Penney High School football team on their state championship.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
JEANNE M. MERSHON**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to a long-time employee of the House of Representatives, Jeanne M. Mershon, who, on November 30th, retired after more than 27 years of dedicated service to this body. Ms. Mershon is a constituent of Virginia's 8th Congressional District, born and raised in Springfield, Virginia and currently resides in Arlington. Jeanne is a proud graduate of the Northern Virginia public school system and her alma mater, the College of William and Mary.

Ms. Mershon began working for the House of Representatives in 1982 in the Office of the Clerk after a stint at the Federal Election Commission. She started in the Office of the Director of Non-Legislative and Financial Services and later joined the Chief Administrative Office in the Office of Facilities Management. After over a decade of making sure the operations of the House ran smoothly, in December of 1995, she joined the Parking Security Office for the House Sergeant at Arms, where she has since served as Assistant Director.

Ms. Mershon is known by her peers as thorough and detail oriented, as well as someone they are able to turn to at any time, even with the most difficult questions. This past September, Ms. Mershon was the recipient of the Office of the Inspector General's "Employee Excellence Award," a fitting tribute to her tireless efforts. We are fortunate to have had Ms. Mershon's service for so many years. She will be sorely missed by all her friends and colleagues. I wish her the best in all of her future

endeavors and a lifetime ahead of even greater reward.

MS. BERTHA M. JONES—  
AGRICULTURALIST,  
THROPIST, CHAMPION**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, it gives me immense pleasure to recognize the life and legacy of one of America's most prolific champions of agricultural education and science, Ms. Bertha M. Jones.

Ms. Jones is a native of Huntsville, AL, where she first found her love for agriculture and appreciation for the mystical wonders of nature. Ms. Jones graduated from State Agricultural and Mechanical Institute in Alabama, currently known as Alabama A&M in 1945, receiving her Bachelor's of Science in Home Economics. After completing her undergraduate studies, Ms. Jones began her career in Luverne, Alabama as a Negro Home Demonstration Agent servicing Crenshaw County for more than a decade.

In 1956, Ms. Bertha received her Master's of Education in Home Economics from Penn State University and shortly thereafter served as a State 4-H Agent for Negro Girls at Tuskegee Institute, currently known as Tuskegee University. During that period Ms. Jones was responsible for 4-H publications and 4-H administration for 37 county agents. Her desire for scholastic achievement led her to further her studies at both Prairie View A&M and George Washington University.

Ms. Bertha Jones lives by the motto, "4-H Is Life", devoting countless hours towards the educational and economic growth of young people throughout the region. Ms. Jones believed that every young person should be exposed to the 4-H experience because it was instrumental in life skills development. Ms. Jones served multiple roles both locally and nationally for 4-H related junctures, including membership on the National and State 4-H Congress Committees, the 4-H Food Preservation and 4-H DOT Committees as well as the 4-H Advisory Committee. Ms. Jones was also the first State Leader for Urban 4-H in both Mobile and Huntsville, AL.

Ms. Jones has authored and co-authored numerous publications dedicated to advancing agricultural studies among rural and urban communities. Some of her works are comprised of the 4-H Officer Training Handbook, Clean Look and Your Health, and the History of Negroes in Cooperative Extension, which she co-authored with Dr. Richard Bailey. Not only has she authored and co-authored publications, Ms. Jones also has been featured in publications such as *They Too Call Alabama Home: African American Profiles, 1800–1999*, written also by Dr. Bailey.

Ms. Jones is a noted philanthropist of local 4-H efforts, giving not only financial resources but also substantial amounts of time towards helping enrich and increase the growing knowledge among young people about 4-H procedures and practices, willing monetary support for those wishing to expand their knowledge through involvement in 4-H activities or pursuit of higher education.

During the course of her career, Ms. Jones received a number of plaques, certificates and awards of recognition and achievement. Some of her most treasured awards include a Presidential Citation for the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education as well as her 2004 induction into the National 4-H Hall of Fame. Not only has Ms. Jones received citation and notary inductions but she also has a conference room dedicated in her honor at Alabama A&M in the Home Economics Department.

Ms. Jones was a faithful steward of the Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church in Tuskegee, AL where she served as an active member of their congregation since 1970. During her membership Ms. Jones served in several capacities including the choir, the Pastor's Aid Committee and as a devoted Sunday school teacher.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to recognize one of the finest agricultural icons in American history, Ms. Bertha M. Jones. Her achievements and contributions to the world of agricultural science will never be forgotten.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, November 17, 2009 and Wednesday, November 18, 2009.

For Tuesday, November 17, 2009, I ask that the Record reflect that had I been present I would have voted "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 892 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3360), "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 893 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 842), "No" on rollcall vote No. 894 (on approval of the Journal), "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 895 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 891).

For Wednesday, November 18, 2009, I ask that the Record reflect that had I been present I would have voted "No" on rollcall vote No. 896 (on agreeing to H. Con. Res. 214, which provides for a conditional adjournment of the two Houses), "No" on rollcall vote No. 897 (ordering the previous question on the Rule for H.R. 3791, the Fire Grants Reauthorization Act of 2009), "No" on rollcall vote No. 898 (on agreeing to H. Res. 909, which provides for consideration of H.R. 3791), "No" on rollcall vote No. 899 (on agreeing to the Perlmutt Amendment to H.R. 3791), "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 900 (on agreeing to the Flake Amendment to H.R. 3791), "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 901 (on passage of H.R. 3791).

HONORING THE KEARNEY HIGH  
SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY  
TEAM**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 3, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize the outstanding achievement